

CLAIMS

1. A method for managing the recording capacity of a recording device when scheduling the recording of an item, independently of user involvement, comprising:
- receiving (104) data representing a plurality of recording modes of the recording device;
 - for each recording mode, calculating (108) the capacity required to record the item using said mode;
 - obtaining (112) the unreserved recording capacity of the recording device;
 - identifying (114) recording modes for which the calculated capacity is less than the unreserved recording capacity; and
 - where one or more recording modes are identified,
 - o selecting (122) an identified recording mode based on a preference; and
 - o where an identified recording mode is selected, scheduling (128) the recording of the item using the selected recording mode.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
- adapting (120) at least one reserved item and repeating the method commencing with the obtaining step.
3. A method for managing the recording capacity of a recording device when recording an item, independently of user involvement, comprising:
- receiving (154) data representing a plurality of recording modes of the recording device;
 - selecting (160) a recording mode based on a preference;
 - commencing (162) the recording of the item using the selected recording mode; and
 - while recording the item:
 - o obtaining (166) the unreserved recording capacity; and

- where the unreserved recording capacity is less than a pre-determined amount, adapting (170) at least one reserved item.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the pre-determined amount
5 corresponds to the recording capacity needed for the item using the selected recording mode.

5. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the pre-determined amount
10 corresponds to 1 minute of recording time using the selected recording mode.

6. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the pre-determined amount
corresponds to 15 minutes of recording time using the selected recording mode.

15 7. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the pre-determined amount corresponds to 60 minutes of recording time using the selected recording mode.

8. A method as claimed in any of claims 3 to 7, wherein the at least one
20 reserved item comprises the item presently being recorded and adapting said item comprises:

- selecting an alternative recording mode based on the preference; and
- continuing the recording of the item using the selected alternative recording mode.

25 9. A method as claimed in any of claims 2 to 7, wherein the at least one reserved item comprises an item previously recorded and adapting said item comprises:

- selecting an alternative recording mode based on the preference; and
- 30 - re-recording the item using the selected alternative recording mode.

10. A method as claimed in any of claims 2 to 7, wherein the at least one reserved item comprises a pending item and adapting said item comprises:

- selecting an alternative recording mode based on the preference.

5 11. A method as claimed in any of claims 2 to 7, wherein adapting the at least one reserved item comprises:

- deleting the reserved item based on the preference.

12. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein prior to the step
10 of selecting the method further comprises receiving the preference.

13. A system for managing the recording capacity of a recording device, independently of user involvement, the system comprising:

- a processing means (201) operable, when scheduling the recording of
15 an item, to:

- o receive data representing a plurality of recording modes of the recording device;
- o obtain the unreserved recording capacity of the recording device;
- o for each recording mode, calculate the capacity required to
20 record the item using said mode;
- o identify recording modes for which the calculated capacity is less than the unreserved recording capacity;
- o where one or more recording modes are identified, select an identified recording mode based on a preference; and
- 25 o schedule the recording of the item using the selected recording mode;

and, when recording an item to:

- o receive data representing a plurality of recording modes of the recording device;
- 30 o select a recording mode to record an item based on a preference;

- commence the recording of the item using the selected recording mode; and
- while recording the item:
 - obtain the unreserved recording capacity; and
 - where the unreserved recording capacity is less than a pre-determined amount, adapt at least one reserved item;
- an interface (210) operable to exchange data between the processing means and the recording device; and
- a recording device (208) operable to co-operate with the processing means.

14. A system as claimed in claim 13, wherein the recording device is operable to send data representing the plurality of recording modes.

15. A system as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the processing means is operable to receive the preference.

16. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the preference is received from a user interface.

17. A system as claimed in claim 15, wherein the preference is received from a network.

18. A system as claimed in any of claims 13 to 17, wherein the interface comprises Project 50 messages conveyed over Scart.

19. A system as claimed in any of claims 13 to 17, wherein the interface comprises CEC messages conveyed over HDMI.

20. A recording device comprising the processing means of any of claims 13 to 17.

21. A record carrier comprising software operable to carry out the method of any of claims 1 to 12.
22. A software utility configured for carrying out the method steps as
5 claimed in any of claims 1 to 12.
23. A system including a data processor, said data processor being directed in its operations by a software utility as claimed in claim 22.